

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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16

ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SY-05 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 CPR-01 USSS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /047 W

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R 181009Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7932

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 04820

DEPT FOR A AND WHITE HOUSE FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP FR

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: STATE 31914; PARIS 1223

1. I WELCOME CONFIRMATION VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO FRANCE AND OFFER FOLLOWING IN RESPONSE REQUEST FOR COMMENT.

2. VISIT TO LAFAYETTE'S CHATEAU (CHATEAU CHAVANIAC) FEASIBLE FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 21, BUT HAVE ALTERNATIVE TO SUGGEST WHICH WOULD REQUIRE LESS TRAVEL TIME.

3. ANCESTRAL HOME OF GENERAL ROCHAMBEAU IS APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR BY HELICOPTER FROM PARIS, AT VENDOME, OWNED AND OPERATED AS WORKING FARM BY DESCENDANT OF ROCHAMBEAU. IS NOT RPT NOT A CHATEAU BUT BOASTS RESIDENCE ON MORE MODEST SCALE PERHAPS COMPARABLE TO ORIGINAL MOUNT VERNON HOME, WITH MEMENTOS OUR REVOLUTION PLUS LIBRARY, DIARIES, BOOKS ON REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD. QUIET, BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS AND ANYTHING PLANNED THERE COULD BE ON SMALL OR LARGE SCALE. ROCHAMBEAU TOMB ONLY FOUR MILES AWAY WHERE WREATH COULD BE PLACED.

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4. ASIDE FROM REDUCED TRAVELTIME AND SIMPLIFIED

LOGISTICS, I FEEL THAT LAFAYETTE CONNECTION HAS BEEN OVERWORKED BY AMERICANS IN PARIS, AND RECOMMEND FOCUS ON ALL IMPORTANT FRENCH FIGURES IN REVOLUTION. WITH WREATH-LAYING AT PICPUS MARCH 22 THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT FIGURES, ROCHAMBEAU AND LAFAYETTE, WOULD BE EMPHASIZED IN A BALANCED MANNER. AT SAME TIME WOULD HAVE HIGHLY DESIRABLE EXPOSURE TO AMERICAN AND FRENCH PRESS IN PARIS FOR THE WREATH-LAYING.

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SY-05 OPR-02 OC-05

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R 181009Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7933

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 04820

DEPT FOR A AND WHITE HOUSE FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

5. VISIT TO VENDOME WOULD PRESUMABLY INCLUDE INFORMAL LUNCH, WREATH LAYING AT ROCHAMBEAU TOMB, AND VISIT OTHER NEARBY SITES RELATED TO U.S. REVOLUTION, I.E. CHATEAUS BELONGING TO OTHER OFFICERS IMPORTANT DURING THIS PERIOD.

6. IF CHATEAU CHAVANAC-LAFAYETTE OPTION CHOSEN, WE HAVE RESEARCHED TRANSPORT ALTERNATIVES AND RECOMMEND USE OF VICE PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT (AIR FORCE II) PARIS TO CLERMONT-FERRAND (APPROXIMATELY 60 MINUTES) AND HELICOPTER (APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES) DIRECTLY TO CHATEAU.

7. CHATEAU CHAVANAC-LAFAYETTE IS OWNED AND MAINTAINED BY AN AMERICAN NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

WHICH BOUGHT IT AFTER TURN OF CENTURY AND USED IT AS
CENTER OF SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL FOR WORLD WAR I ORPHANS
AND TUBERCULAR FRENCH CHILDREN. GRADUALLY FRENCH
CITIZENS SUCCEEDED TO CORPORATE OFFICES AND ALL
OFFICERS ARE NOW FRENCH. WITHOUT OTHER VOCATION FOR
THE CHATEAU THEY HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR MEANS TO
RE-ENGAGE AMERICAN INTEREST IN CHATEAU AS SITE OF
CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, OR OTHER FRANCO-AMERICAN
ACTIVITIES. REMAINING ENDOWMENT SUFFICIENT ONLY FOR
ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE OF CHATEAU AND GROUNDS. CHATEAU
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CONTAINS A DISPLAY AREA AND A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
LAFAYETTE MEMORABILIA, INCLUDING BRACE PISTOLS
PRESENTED LAFAYETTE BY WASHINGTON.

8. I RECOMMEND CALL ON PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC ON
MONDAY, MARCH 22, AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME.

9. I WILL TRY TO SCHEDULE CALL ON PRESIDENT GISCARD
PRIOR TO HIS LUNCHEON ON MONDAY.

10. WELCOME AND APPRECIATE OFFER TO MEET WITH
EMBASSY STAFF WHICH WILL BE ADDED TO MONDAY SCHEDULE.

11. I AM WARMLY LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT; IT
WILL GIVE SPECIAL AND EXCITING DIMENSION TO OUR
BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE IN FRANCE.
RUSH

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